

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 07767 231330Z
ACTION AID-31

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9106

UNCLAS LAGOS 07767

FOR AID/RDP, STEWART FROM MOSER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, NI
SUBJECT: VIEWS HERE CONCERNING 661 PROJECTS

1. I HAD FRUITFUL REVIEW OF PENDING PROJECTS WITH DR. EZIFE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CENTRAL PLANNING OFFICE, MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHO WAS MEMBER OF APRIL DELEGATION. HE WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN OF CANCELLATION OF PROPOSED FAA TEAM VISIT AND, AFTER PROBING, CONCLUDED THAT THE PROBLEM STEMS FROM LACK OF COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED, THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE NIGERIAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY. UNTIL THE MATTER CAN BE SORTED OUT, HE SUGGESTED FURTHER ACTION BE DELAYED. HE PROMISED TO LET EMBASSY KNOW WHEN A NEED FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAS CRYSTALLIZED.

2. EZEIFE ATTEMPTED TO SET UP MEETING WITH DIRECTOR, FEDERAL OFFICE OF STATISTICS, TO SORT OUT NEXT STEPS WITH BUCEN. AS FAR AS HE KNOWS, THE STATISTICS OFFICE IS EXPECTING ONE OR TWO MAN TEAM FROM BUCEN IN NEAR FUTURE TO HELP ON OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF STATISTICAL NEEDS. I CAN FIND NO CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT HERE AND ECON STAFF IN EMBASSY IS EXTREMELY DEPLETED. PLEASE CABLE LATEST UNDERSTANDING AND
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PLANS OF BUCEN.

3. HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO SEE NIGERIAN OFFICIALS BACK-STOPPING EPA PROJECT BUT UNDERSTAND 661 MISSION IS ON TRACK IN ACCORDANCE RECOMMENDATIONS IN JOINT REPORT. AM LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING NEXT MONDAY DURING WHICH AGREEMENT HOPEFULLY WILL BE REACHED ON COE NIGER

RIVER PROJECT. I AM NOW CONCENTRATING MY REMAINING TIME ON PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS WITH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS ON TRAINING PROJECT.

4. PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO SPEND ONE TO TWO WEEK TDY HERE BEGINNING MID-JULY AT LATEST TO ASSIST DEPLETED ECON STAFF FOLLOW-UP ON 661 ACTIVITIES AND TO ASSIST IN PLANNING GROUP III STUDENT PRE-DEPARTURE ARRANGEMENTS. I HOPE THIS TIMING WILL CAUSE YOU NO GREAT HARDSHIP.

5. PLEASE NOTIFY WIFE OF MY RETURN ON TUESDAY. NO NEED FOR HER TO MEET ME SINCE I PLAN TO GO DIRECTLY TO OFFICE.

WYMAN

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